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McCarthy

Seen on LBJ 64 Ticket

By John Mahre

Staff Reporter

A Republican brain-truster predicted yesterday that President Lyndon Johnson's running mate in 1964 will be Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota.

He also indicated that if Johnson followed the line he had taken in 1960, he would commit himself to televised debates with the GOP presidential candidate next year.

William Prendergast, research director for the GOP National Committee, mentioned McCarthy when panelists at a D.C. Political Science Association seminar were asked for "predictions that could be forgotten after 1964."

"Well, he's a liberal—he has close rapport with those elements of the Democratic Party that weren't too happy about Lyndon Johnson," Prendergast said in George Washington University's law school.

"Geography would obviously be an asset," he added. "And Senator McCarthy is a literate, sophisticated and articulate gentleman. He has cordial relationship with the President and he leaned toward him in 1960—certainly after Senator Humphrey was out of the race."

He added that McCarthy's religion was "important." The Senator, 47, is a Roman Catholic.

In 1960, Lyndon Johnson was all for the TV debates," he said. "In fact, he strongly criticized Richard Nixon for not having a fifth debate" with the late President.

Richard J. Scammon, director of the Census Bureau and a vote analysis expert, said President and Mrs. Kennedy had made a deep impression on the nonpolitical strata of the country, "the people who don't turn out to vote on off-year elections, for example."

He observed that although the new President had only a short time to protect his own name, the fringe benefits of incumbency should not be underestimated.

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